(English)

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Non-Payment of Dues

4971.SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken up the cases of non-payment of statutory post-retirement dues to employees of Jessop, Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation with the concerned Ministry as well as with the Ministry of Finance;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government. The Department of Heavy Industry will be taking appropriate action as per the decision of the Government.

Stock Market Scam

4972.SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status in respect of the stock market scam;
- (b) whether the Government have recovered the amount of outstanding tax dues, from the defaulters;
 - (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the reasons for delay to recover the remaining tax dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The details of action taken by the Government on the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on irregularities in securities transactions are given in the Actioin Taken Report (ATR) laid in the Parliament in 1994. Some of the measures further taken include amendment of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 for exercising better control over non-banking financial companies, advising banks for implementation of recommendations of the working group which reviewed internal control, inspection and audit system in banks, setting up of Audit Committees of the banks, publication of list of suit filed accounts, etc. Central Bureau of Investigation have also registered a number of cases. Reserve Bank of India is also monitoring departmental action taken by the banks/financial institutions.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Private Sector Banks

4973.SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of such private sector banks which are

- (b) whether those private sector Banks have opened their branches in rural and semi-urban areas as per the norms fixed by the R.B.I; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The names of private sector banks established for more than three years are at Statement-I

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s Guidelines dated 22.1.93 for setting up new private sector banks for commencing of banking business inter alia, provided that during the first three years after inception, these banks will have to establish 25% of their branches in rural/semiurban areas. Out of newly set up private sector banks, two banks viz. UTI Bank Ltd. and Indus Ind Bank Ltd. have completed three years of operations in April, 1997. Details of branches opened by these banks are furnished at Statement-II

Statement-I

Private Sector Banks

- 1. Bank of Madura Ltd.
- 2. Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.
- 3. Bareilly Corporation Bank Ltd.
- 4. Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.
- 5. Banaras State Bank Ltd.
- 6. Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.
- 7. Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.
- 8. Federal Bank Ltd.
- 9. Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
- 10. Karnataka Bank Ltd.
- 11. Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.
- 12. City Union Bank Ltd.
- 13 Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.
- 14. Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.
- 15. Nainital Bank Ltd.
- 16. Nedungadi Bank Ltd.
- 17. Ratnakar Bank Ltd.
- 18. Sangali Bank Ltd.
- 19. South Indian Bank Ltd.
- 20. Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.
- 21. United Western Bank Ltd.
- 22. Vysya Bank Ltd.
- 23. SBI Commercial & Int. Bank Ltd.
- 24. Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad Ltd.
- 25. Indus Ind Bank Ltd.
- 26. UTI Bank Ltd.

Statement-II

17 VAISAKHA, 1919 (SAKA)

-	Name of the	Metro-	Urban	Rural	Semi- urban	Total
No.	Bank UTI Bank Ltd.	8	1	-		6
•		11	3		4	18
	Indusind Bank Ltd.					

[Translation]

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FERA Cases

4974. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of persons against whom proceeding has not been completed under 'FERA' since 1995;
 - (b) the reasons for delay in each case;
- (c) whether the Government propose to review the cases in which inordinate delay is being caused; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The number of adjudication and prosecution cases (under Foreign Exchang Regulation Act) pending as on 31.3.1997 were 4809 and 2058 respectively.

(b) to (d) Though every effort is made for completion of the said proceedings quickly but these get delayed in the course of legal process.

[English]

Transfer of Shares

4975. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the securities and Exchange Board of India has received complaints from the investors residing in Delhi/New Delhi in the months of June and July, 1996 for delay in transfer of shares by M/s Orkay Industries Ltd., Bombay;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof complaint-wise;
- (c) the number of complaints which have been resolved so far by the company;
- (d) the details of such complaints which are pending for more than six months;
- (e) the reasons for such a long delay in transfer of shares, complaint-wise;
- (f) whether the company is not transferring the share certificates on the plea that the same have not been received by the company inspite of furnishing certificate from the postal department by the investors supporting that the letter in question was duly delivered in the company;
- (g) whether any enquiry has been conducted by the company in this regard;

- (h) if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) the time by which the grievance of the investors will be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (i) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Contaminated Drinking Water

4976.SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government have received reports ralating to prevalance of arsenic in underground water which is commonly used as drinking water in the areas of Bashirhat, 24 Parganas, North Barhampore and Murshidabad in West Bengal;
- (b) whether the Government are yet to take corrective measures for appropriate treatment of such water resources;
- (c) whether the consumption of such water is seriously affecting the health of the people of these areas; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been reported that drinking water in 8 districts of West Bengal contains arsenic more than safe limits prescribed by the World Health Organisation.

The Govt. of West Bengal has prepared a perspective plan to tackle arsenic contamination by replacement of tubewells by deeper ones, construction of new piped water supply schemes, sanitary protected rigwells and rain harvesting structure for immediate relief and establishment of surface water based piped water supply shemes and establishing new spot sources for solving the problem. The lst phase action plan for drinking water supply in arsenic affected areas was approved in February, 94 by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment at an estimated cost of Rs. 9.62 crores, covering 4.87 lakhs population. It is to be funded in the ratio of 75 25 by the Centre and the State Government. Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment has approved another project of piped water supply through surface source for Malda District in February, 1995 at an estimated cost of Rs. 88.48 crores with the same funding pattern. The project envisages to cover 10.87 lakhs population.